

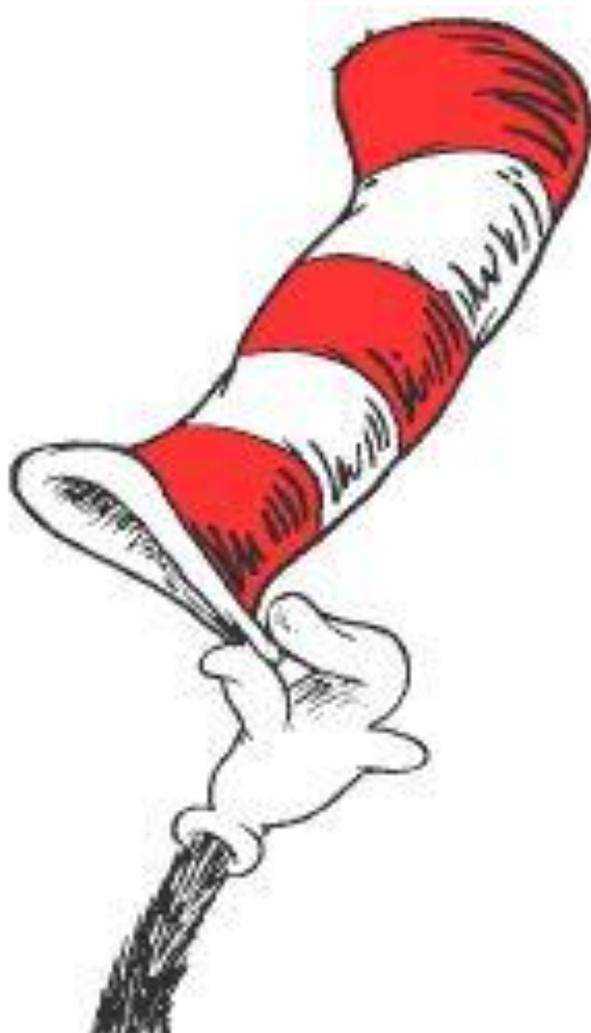
SITKA
Fine Arts Camp

Young Performers Theater presents:

Seussical: The Musical

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens



YPT: THE MISSION

Thank you for your interest in theater!

The Young Performers Theater (YPT) at the Sitka Fine Arts Camp is proudly entering its fifth season. We're excited to continue our dedication to introducing theater arts to the young people of this community.

The YPT is committed to providing an environment where young people's voices are heard; where they are given agency and can develop the empathy and responsibility needed to become future leaders of strong communities. We train young people to be observant listeners, insightful creators, thoughtful critics, passionate thinkers, and committed leaders.

And perhaps most importantly of all: we play.



WHAT IS YPT?

YPT is a kid-focused performing arts training program. We believe performance in front of a live audience is one of the most directly valuable ways of becoming a stronger performer. So, our program focuses primarily on producing full-length plays and Broadway musicals in the historic Odess Theater in Allen Hall.

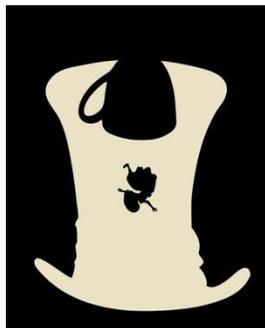
We engage youth ages 7 to 18 and perform for schools and the community alike.

THE 2017-2018 YPT SEASON

This season we'll be producing 3 shows:

**Alice,
An Adventure in
Wonderland**
By Charles Way
October 27-29

'Twas Brillig, and
the slithy toves did
gyre and gimble in
the wabe...



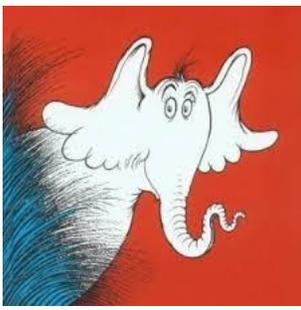
**Seussical:
the Musical**
By Lynn Ahrens &
Stephen Flaherty
February 16-18

Oh, the things you
can think, when
you think about
Seuss!



**A Night of
One Acts**
April 27-29

Short plays
soon to be
announced!



About *Seussical: The Musical*

The Cat in the Hat tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust that contains the Whos, including Jojo, a Who child sent off to military school for thinking too many “thinks.” Horton faces a double challenge: not only must he protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, but he must guard an abandoned egg, left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping, and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him.

About the Director

Zeke Blackwell has been involved in over 50 productions as a director, actor, writer, designer, and technician, and has had the joy of making theater in Sitka, Fort Worth, New Haven, New York, and Costa Rica, where he directed the world premiere of the Spanish-language production of *Once on this Island!* With a decade of improv comedy experience, he’s performed/taught improv in LA, San Francisco, NYC, Chicago, Austin, Boston, and Washington, D.C, and most recently at the Alaska State Improv Festival. His original play, *Still Life*, was produced in the 2013 New York International Fringe Festival. He graduated from Yale University in 2013 with a B.A. in Cognitive Science. He served two years on the board of directors for Far Corners Community Musical Theatre, a non-profit dedicated to providing arts opportunities for underserved youth in isolated regions of the world. Zeke is returning for his second season at SFAC as the YPT Director after working at the Redhouse Arts Center in Syracuse, NY.



About the Music Director



Rhiannon Guevin grew up performing in musicals with her local children's theater in Davis, CA. Between ages 7 and 18 she participated in over 40 musical productions in such varied roles as a snowdrop flower, a pigeon, and Molly in *Annie*. In 2012, Rhiannon graduated summa cum laude from University of Puget Sound’s School of Music, where she received a BM in Vocal Performance with Honors in Music. At Puget Sound she performed in opera scenes and full-scale productions, including the roles of Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Miss Titmouse in *Too Many Sopranos!*, and Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*. In fall 2011 she won the University’s Concerto/Aria Competition. In summer 2011, she traveled to Kunming, China, where she played The Queen of the Night in Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte* for the China Yunnan Opera Festival. Rhiannon has studied voice with Dr. Dawn Padula and Joseph Evans. In fall 2013, Rhiannon was musical director for SFAC’s

inaugural YPT production, *The Adventures of Beatrix Potter and Her Friends*. In spring 2015, Rhiannon will appear as Zerlina in the Juneau Lyric Opera production of *Don Giovanni*, which will perform in Juneau and Sitka. Rhiannon has been the Program Manager at SFAC since March 2013.

About the Choreographer

Melissa Hantke is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College with a Bachelors of Arts degree in dance. She has performed in multiple community musicals and dance shows in the New York area culminating in the Off-Broadway original musical "Speakeasy". Melissa has lived and taught dance in Sitka for over 15 years having participated in numerous Nutcracker and Fireweed Dance Theatre productions. Melissa's passion is tap dance and musical theatre.



Roles (most roles can be played by either gender):



- The Cat in the Hat (10-18)**
- Horton, the Elephant (11-18)**
- Mayzie LaBird (11-18)**
- Gertrude McFuzz (11-18)**
- Mr. Who Mayor (10-18)**
- Mrs. Who Mayor (10-18)**
- Jojo, the mayor's child (7-14)**
- The Sour Kangaroo (11-18)**
- The Young Kangaroo (7-14)**
- General Genghis Khan Schmitz (10-18)**

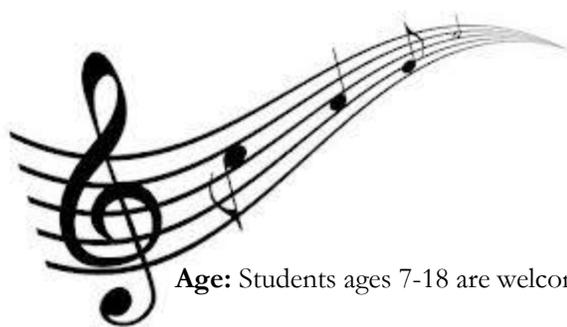
- The Three Bird Girls (10-18)**
- The Three Wickersham Brothers (10-18)**

- The Grinch Who Stole Christmas (9-18)**
- Cindy Lou Who (7-12)**
- Max the Dog (7-12)**

- Yertle the Turtle (7-18)**
- Vlad Vladikoff (7-18)**

- Jungle Creatures (7-18)**
- The Whos (7-18)**
- General Schmitz' Cadets (7-18)**
- The Cat's Helpers (7-18)**
- Hunters (7-18)**
- Circus McGurkus Animals & Performers (7-18)**
- Fish (7-18)**





Audition Information:

Age: Students ages 7-18 are welcome to audition. Casting is by audition, *no experience is necessary*.

Audition Requirements: Auditions will take place Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 7th through 14th. Sign-ups will be posted to the Fine Arts Camp website. Make-up auditions will be scheduled on a case-by-case basis.

ALL students who audition will be offered a role in the production.

There will be three components to auditions for *Seussical*: acting, singing, and dancing.

Students should arrive 20 minutes before their audition time to complete an audition form and conflict sheet. Audition forms will require the signature of a parent or guardian. Each audition slot will last no more than 10 minutes.

Please prepare 30 seconds of a song from a musical (**not from *Seussical***) to sing acapella. We can provide a starting note.

Please memorize 10-30 lines of anything written by Dr. Seuss to perform as a monologue – show us as much character as you can!

Group dance auditions will be held on the morning of Saturday, November 11th. We will teach a short dance combination. Please wear clothes you can move in! We will assign you to a time slot.

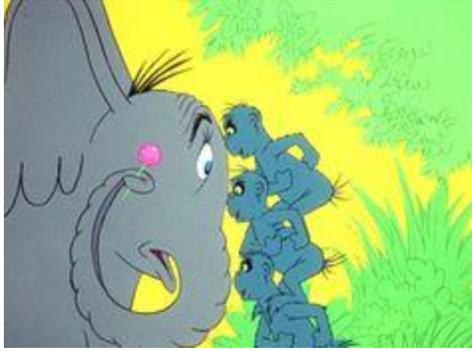
Callbacks: A list of any students who have received a callback will be emailed out by 8:30pm on November 11th. Callbacks will occur as needed on Sunday, November 12th from 12-4pm.

If a student does not receive a callback, it does not mean that they will not be cast in the production or receive a leading role. Callbacks are simply a way for the director to get more information about a student or to see them read or sing for a particular role. Please note that all students who audition will be offered a role in the production.

Cast List: The cast list will be emailed out by Wednesday, November 15th. The first rehearsal will be sometime TBD the week of December 4th. The first parent meeting will be Monday, December 11th from 6:00 to 6:45pm.

Commitment: Please be aware that, while any role in a play requires a great deal of dedication, several of the major roles of this production will require a *significant* time commitment, and a large amount of personal responsibility on behalf of the actor. Some actors will be at many rehearsals, and will need to work outside of rehearsal as well to learn their parts.





Commitments:

Rehearsal Schedule: Students will fill out a conflict sheet at their audition. The rehearsal schedule for the show is built around the conflicts that students submit at their audition, therefore it is imperative that participants are thorough when filling out their conflict sheet. A complete rehearsal schedule for the duration of the show will be handed out to parents at the first parent meeting. This rehearsal schedule is subject to change with as much advance notice as possible given. Participants are expected to be at every rehearsal that they are scheduled for.

The rehearsal period runs 7 weeks, between January 3rd and February 18th.

There will be music rehearsals to be scheduled between December 4th and December 19th.

Absence/Tardiness Policy: Theater is inherently a collaborative, group-made art, and the individual is essential to the whole. A participant who is absent from or late to a rehearsal disrespects his or her peers and wastes everyone's time. Please anticipate potential absences or tardiness and communicate with us as soon as you are aware of them.

Three unexcused absences may result in forfeiture of a role and/or dismissal from the program.

Three unexcused tardies will count as one unexcused absence.

Tech Week: In addition to regular rehearsals, participants are required to be at **all** Tech Week rehearsals.

Tech Week will be Monday-Thursday from 5:00pm to 8:30pm the week of February 12th.

Cue to Cue: In addition to tech week, we're asking participants to reserve the Saturday before tech week (February 11th) to have an extended rehearsal (potentially morning and afternoon, TBA) to better prepare for production week.

Performances: Participants are required to be at all performances they are scheduled to perform at, unless the director gives special, explicit permission to do otherwise. A school presentation will be scheduled for Wednesday, February 14th, and we'll be working with the school district to grant permission for your child to miss school that day.

Strike: Immediately following the final performance, participants and their parents will be expected to help with striking the set, costumes, etc. and with cleaning up the performance space. The strike will be an organized event, and we will not waste anyone's time. Following strike there will be a post-production celebration for everyone involved in the production!



Rehearsal Information:

The rehearsal process will take place between Monday, December 4th and Thursday, February 18th.

Rehearsals generally occur during the following times:

Mondays 4-8pm
Tuesdays 4-8pm
Wednesdays 4-8pm
Thursdays 4-8pm
Saturday 12pm-5pm

PLEASE NOTE: Students will **not** be required to be at every rehearsal (nor will rehearsals ever fill the entire above schedule). A detailed rehearsal schedule, which takes into account the conflicts listed by students at their audition, will be given out at the first rehearsal. The above rehearsal time slots themselves may be subject to change, based on participants' conflicts.

Tech Week rehearsals are **mandatory** and run Monday-Thursday 5:00pm-8:30pm the week of February 12th. A **mandatory** extended rehearsal will be scheduled for Saturday, February 11th, TBA.



Performance Information:

Performance Dates:

Wednesday, February 14th TBD – School Performances
Friday, February 16th, 7pm
Saturday, February 17th, 2pm & 7pm
Sunday, February 18th, 2pm

Participation Fee:

There is a \$150 participation fee (\$157.50 after tax) for those who commit to the production. The fee will include a show t-shirt.

For families with three or more participants a 10% discount per participant will be applied.

We at the Sitka Fine Arts Camp are committed to making opportunities in the arts available to students regardless of financial circumstances. Expense should not be a barrier to the arts.

Consequently, need-based financial aid is available. For applications, visit the Youth Theater page at www.fineartscamp.org or stop by the SFAC Main Office in the Rasmuson Building on the SJ Campus.

If parents are interested in donating to the financial aid fund for the Young Performers Theater program, they can call the Fine Arts Camp Office at 907-747-3085.

Parent Responsibilities:

Parent Meeting: A parent must attend the parent meeting on Monday, December 11th from 6:00-6:45 pm. This is a very important meeting where the director, parent coordinator, and other members of the production staff will distribute important information and answer any questions that parents have. Parents will also have the chance to write down which volunteer opportunities they are the most interested in (costumes, props, set construction, etc.).

There will be two additional parent meetings/trainings during the process to provide a forum for the director and parents to check-in with each other and keep communication strong.

Rehearsals: We very much value your time and your child's time. Because of this, we will start rehearsals on time and end rehearsals on time. Please plan on having your child at rehearsal 10 minutes early. They should bring a water bottle, pencil, and their script to every rehearsal. Students should wear comfortable clothing and shoes that they can move in to every rehearsal.

Volunteer Hours: All families are expected to put in at least 10 hours of volunteer service to help prepare for the show. This volunteer service can be completed in a variety of ways, including set building/painting, prop gathering/construction, costume assistance, baking goods for concessions and many other varied tasks. Parents may also complete volunteer hours by helping out during tech week and performances by being backstage monitors, stage crew, helping out with the box office, or helping with costumes and make-up in the dressing rooms.

Please record your hours to help us keep track. Your involvement is crucial to our success.

Communication: All communication with cast members and parents will be done via email. Please plan on checking your email regularly for any changes or updates regarding the production. The parent coordinator will also use email as a tool to inform parents of different volunteer opportunities.

Costumes: In addition to volunteer hours, each family must supply the costume for their child. Depending on the casting of the show, an actor may have more than one costume. The show's costume designers will provide **detailed instructions** for each family on what is required for each of their child's costumes. Specific shoes, make-up and undergarments may also be required. Family members can either make the costumes themselves, buy a costume, or hire someone else to make the costume. For a list of community members who are willing to sew costumes, please talk to the costume designers. As our YPT costume store grows, we will be able to provide more support to families.

If your family has financial limitations, please speak to the director and costume designer about obtaining assistance.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN
Seussical: the Musical!

